



Fair Legal Access Grants (FLAG) Act

Too often, the perpetrators of mass shootings and dangerous crimes have a known past of threatening or even violent rhetoric or behavior, and individuals in suicidal crisis pose a higher risk to themselves if they have easy access to firearms.

Law enforcement, community members, and health care professionals can file a red flag petition, known as an extreme risk protection order (ERPO), to help get guns out of the hands of troubled or dangerous individuals.

ERPOs are an effective mass shooting prevention measure because research shows that [at least two-thirds of mass shooters exhibit behaviors that elicit concern](#) in family members, friends, neighbors, classmates, co-workers, or others. And mass shooters often share their plans and exhibit dangerous behaviors and warning signs.

Unfortunately, the burdensome and lengthy legal process may deter people from seeing their petition through, and dangerous or troubled individuals remain armed.

The FLAG Act would help keep our communities safe by ensuring that any person filing a red flag petition has access to the resources needed to be heard and successfully file an ERPO when presented with an opportunity for intervention.

Specifically, the FLAG Act would provide \$50 million in annual funding to states and local governments to provide access to legal counsel and other legal services to assist family members and other community members in navigating the complicated legal system when seeking to temporarily disarm someone showing signs of violence.

The bill is endorsed by Everytown, Moms Demand Action, March for Our Lives, Newtown Action Alliance, New Yorkers Against Gun Violence, Major Cities Chiefs Association, and the New York State Police Investigators Association.